

From: Belcou
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 7:30pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

*P.O. Box 13148
Burton, WA 98013*

January 25, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Now that an agreement has been reached, I ask you to approve the settlement in the Microsoft case. The previous break-up attempt seemed to arise from a personality clash during the early stages of this case; however, companies should not be dismantled for such reasons. This recent, more balanced solution should stand.

Microsoft may have been involved in very aggressive marketing techniques, but the company really deserves more appreciation for all the great things it has accomplished for the new economy. The bottom line is that the competition has been weak, and controversial issues—such as bundling features—are actually very convenient. Upon reflection, the deal that has been worked out with the help of a court mediator seems quite reasonable.

If this plan can proceed, industry rivals will have plenty of chances to gain market share. For instance, competitors will benefit from increased flexibility in adding or removing Microsoft software from the Windows operating system, and they will have access to its internal code. Please accept the proposed terms and let the free market decide the rest. Thank you.

Sincerely,

James Pappin

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